



Ulster County 2021 Climate Smart Communities Recertification Documentation

PE9 Action: Climate-related Public Events

Background: Ulster County supports various climate-related initiatives, focused on government operations as well as on the broader community. The County Department of the Environment, Environmental Management Council, Climate Smart Committee, and other County stakeholders have historically partnered to host and promote public events focusing a topics related to climate change. Despite the continued challenges related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the County Climate Smart Committee and other partners have continued to host and promote these events when possible.

Documentation is included for the March 29, 2021 Low Carbon Concrete Forum.

Documentation:


- Facebook event page (screenshot attached): <https://www.facebook.com/events/260019288993725>
- Flyer

Events

Events



Concrete is the most commonly used building material in the world, and the second most used substance after water. Its central ingredient, Portland cement, is a leading source of global industrial emissions — making up 7% of global carbon emissions.

Because concrete must be manufactured close to where it is used, local governments and advocates can  an outsize role in driving climate-positive innovation in the sector through their purchasing and policy choices. Indeed, around the country, it is local municipal and county leadership and creativity that is having the biggest impact.

We invite participants join us on **Monday, March 29, 2021 at 6:00 pm** to explore the importance of addressing concrete's embodied emissions at the local level to achieve climate smart goals. The presentation will focus on specific policy and program actions that can be addressed at the local level.

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29

Low Carbon Concrete Forum

Public · Hosted by **Ulster County Climate Smart Task Force**

 Monday, March 29, 2021 at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT

Low Carbon Concrete Forum

Monday, March 29, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 PM

sponsored by

**Ulster County Department of the Environment
Ulster County Climate Smart Committee
Ulster County Environmental Management Council
Climate Reality Project – Hudson Valley/Catskill Chapter**



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Presenter: Chris Neidl

Co-Founder, OpenAir. Chris entered the low carbon concrete field in 2018, after a 15-year career as a clean energy advocate, educator and project developer in both North America and Asia. Chris is a co-founder of the volunteer grassroots climate advocacy network, OpenAir, which works to advance negative emissions solutions through collaborative advocacy and R&D projects.



Matthew P. Adams, Ph.D., NJIT. Matthew is currently an assistant professor of Civil Engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and a Richard P. Nathan Public Policy Fellow at the Rockefeller Institute of Government. His research and academic focus encompasses a wide tranche of subjects related to sustainable concrete innovation.

Discussion topics will include:

- Why concrete matters to the climate
- A survey of high impact local policies that NYS counties and municipalities can implement to decarbonize concrete.
- Call to action: Adopt the NYS Rivertown Sidewalk Mix, a low carbon concrete option for local governments.
- Low carbon concrete: a primer on forms, impacts, costs and local availability -- [Matthew P. Adams Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, New Jersey Institute of Technology](#)

Monday, March 29, 2021

6:00-7:30 PM: Presentation and Q&A

7:30-8:00 PM: Watch Party – A short video will be streamed which provides background information on low carbon concrete.

Register at: https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctfu-ppj0iGNNDrrfE_bm6B9Oy3Ju6j9qk (preregistration required).





PE9 Action: Climate-related Public Events

3 Points

A. Why is this action important?

Local governments cannot achieve energy and climate goals without the participation of an informed populace. The residential and commercial sectors are two large sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is important to educate residents and business owners on energy and water conservation, waste and vehicle miles traveled reductions, and other issues related to climate action. Educating the public will increase awareness of the benefits of individual action, and will help to further the community's climate action goals. This Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action offers a way for local governments to get experience with community education without developing a full engagement strategy, as is required for [PE9 Action: Climate Change Education and Engagement](#).

B. How to implement this action

Local governments should collaborate with groups such as local nonprofits, academic institutions, trade associations, or companies to deliver educational seminars, workshops, conferences, fairs, or sessions at such events, to engage the public in the local government's clean energy and climate efforts. Consider which existing (or new) workshops, conferences, fairs, and events the local government may expand to address topics such as the following:

- Energy efficient appliances for residential and commercial buildings
- Onsite renewable energy production
- Weatherization of a residential building
- Creating a recycling and composting system at home or the office
- Safe bike commute in all seasons and bike safety
- Reducing water use in the home and office
- Adapting to increased health risks related to climate change

Local governments should endeavor to reduce waste and energy use to the greatest extent possible for these events and provide recycling at the events.

Local governments are eligible for points under this CSC action by hosting a single event, or series of events related to climate change mitigation (reduction of GHG emissions) and/or climate change adaptation. The event must have been held within one year of prior to the application date. Types of events could include seminars, workshops, conferences, summits, or fairs. Local governments are eligible for points if they are the lead organizer or a supporting participant in an event organized by a partner organization. Support for a partner organization could be in form of donating the use of a local government facility, covering some of the costs of the event, serving on an advisory committee, speaking at the event, and/or using staff time to prepare for or facilitate the event(s).

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

This action may be implemented as a single-day event or may take place over the course of a year. Project costs may include staff time, volunteer time, marketing materials, booth and registration fees, honoraria for speakers, and food and beverages for the audience. Information-technology resources may be required to implement this action.

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

This action is applicable to any local government. It may be organized by a variety of departments, councils, or committees, such as the CSC task force, planning department, department of public works or recycling division, a sustainability committee, or an environmental committee.

E. How to obtain points for this action

Three points are available for local governments that host or facilitate at least one community event in the last year that was related to climate change and was consistent with the guidelines above.

F. What to submit

Submit documentation that includes the topic, date, time, location, subject, and partners for at least one event held within the past year that was related to climate change. Documentation may include the agenda, attendee sign-in sheets, photographs of the event, website post, and/or educational materials distributed at the event. Applicants must provide information on the role played by the local government.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- [Bedford 2020 Climate Action Summit](#)
- [Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, Education Materials & Activities](#)
- [Sustainable Communities Online, How to Plan a Sustainable Event](#)
- [Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit](#)
- [EPA Calendar of Climate Change and Water Events](#)

H. Recertification requirements

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.